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This summer visitors are invited to Kedleston Hall, the National Trust house near Derby, to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month (SAHM) and to experience music, dance and relevant stories which commemorate the history and identity of British South Asians.

SAHM runs from 18 July to 17 August each year. Set up in 2019, the month recognises and celebrates the contributions South Asian communities have made to the UK.

Simran Sandhu, Senior Programming and Partnerships Officer at Kedleston Hall explains, “At Kedleston we continue to recognise our South Asian connections and have produced a programme of events for SAHM with local author and artists. These events show the culture and narrative of South Asian heritage in Britain, especially connecting with the local South Asian diaspora in the Midlands.”

There will be a series of free events (admission charges apply) at Kedleston Hall throughout this time:

- [Immigration Stories – An Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary Man](#). An anecdotal account of 93 old Mr Ajit Singh Dosanjh who arrived in the UK in the early 1950s at age 23. Includes a film, written by his daughter Sangita Dosanjh (Thursday 18 July, booking essential.)
- [Live Fusion Music featuring the Indian Tabla and harp by Tāla Tarang](#). (Saturday 10 August, no booking required.)
- [Dance performance and workshop by Mohika Shankar](#). A free workshop of dance exploring movement using hand gestures and expressions rooted in Kathak, an Indian Classical Dance form. Mohika will perform in the Hall afterwards (Saturday 17 August, booking for workshop essential.)

Simran elaborates, “It is particularly relevant for us at Kedleston to include a programme to celebrate SAHM due to the links of Lord Curzon’s (custodian of the Hall) time as Viceroy of India and the South Asian collection we care for displayed in The Museum.

This year, whilst visiting Kedleston, visitors will have the opportunity to reflect on this year’s theme '[Free to Be Me](#)' and share their thoughts on their own identity and story.”

Our SAHM programming runs from 18 July – 17 August. For further information and opening times, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall

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Image 1: Fusion music band Tāla Tarang (meaning Rhythm Waves)

Images credit 1: Tāla Tarang

Image 2: Mohika Shankar, Kathak dance artist

Images credit 2: Mohika Shankar

Web: nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall

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Notes for Editors:

About Kedleston Hall

Kedleston Hall was designed not as a family house, but to be a show palace for lavish entertaining and for displaying extensive collections of paintings, sculpture and original furnishings. Kedleston is a stunning example of the work of the 18th-century architect Robert Adam. Kedleston is surrounded by over 800 acres of naturalistic parkland including a lake, cascades and original Adam features. The parkland is full of wildlife, woodlands and walks for all to enjoy. The Curzon family have lived here since the 12th century and continue to live at the Hall.

About the Museum

Kedleston Hall has over one thousand objects from across the Asian continent. This collection was brought together by George Nathaniel Curzon, 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (1859-1925) who inherited the Hall in 1916. Curzon travelled extensively across Asia and in 1899 became the Viceroy of India, making him the highest British representative in colonial India.

Once known as the 'Indian Museum' and later the 'Eastern Museum', the collection includes objects from countries as diverse as Japan and Turkey, Korea and Nepal. The largest group of objects originate from India, and reflect the period when Curzon was Viceroy (1899-1905). The collection ranges from tourist souvenirs to diplomatic gifts, commissioned pieces and personal items.

The museum at Kedleston was established in 1927 in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The mode of display and the labelling reflect the period in which it was created.

Research is now underway to conserve and inform a re-presentation of the objects. There are many things we do not know about this collection, numerous questions to be answered and stories to unravel. How and where Curzon acquired the objects is one important question. So too, is their cultural, religious, and artistic significance. Over the coming months, different partners will help us re-present objects selected from the museum. By shining a light on small groups of objects we hope to explore different stories, spark conversations, and uncover new connections.

About the National Trust

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people, Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy.

The Trust has committed to achieving carbon net zero emissions by 2030, and establishing 20 million trees to help tackle climate change, creating green corridors for people and nature near towns and cities, running a year-long campaign to connect people with nature and continuing investment in arts and heritage. Ensuring everyone who visits feels welcome, and more people can access its places continues to be another key aspect of the charity's work.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.